

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1297

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL FROM AMBASSADOR MIDDENDORF

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: APER, NL, JA (BLODGETT, JOHN Q.)

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC- COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR JOHN BLODGETT

1. COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS JOHN BLODGETT
HAD

A TELEPHONE CALL LAST WEEK FROM A FRIEND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COM-
MERCE, SAYING THAT HIS NAME WAS AMONG SEVERAL THAT WOULD BE
PROPOSED

TO STATE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR TOKYO' S COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL
AFFAIRS

OLIVER BONGARD WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE ON OR
ABOUT
JUNE 1.

2. BLODGETT IS INTERESTED IN THE TOKYO JOB AND IS WELL QUALIFIED
FOR IT. I AM HAPPY TO ENDORSE HIS CANDIDACY. HOWEVER, AS YOU KNOW,
HE IS HOLDING DOWN ONE OF THE MOST VITAL POSITION IN THE EMBASSY.
HE HAS SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND IS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN
ECONOMIC, TRADE AND MONETARY POLICY MATTERS, AND IN OUR TOP
PRIORITY
PROGRAM TO ASSIST U. S. BUSINESSMEN AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE U. S.
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

3. BLODGETT WOULD BE A DIFFICULT MAN TO REPLACE IN THE BEST OF
CIRCUMSTANCES. WE HAVE JUST LOST ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ECONOMIC
OFFICERS, LEE GOTZLINGER, AN EXPERT ON FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHOSE RE-
PLACEMENT IS NOT SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE UNTIL LATE SUMMER. OUR
AGRICULTURAL

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PAGE 02 THE HA 02199 150921 Z

ATTACHE WILL LEAVE TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN JULY AND I AM PLANNING TO LEAVE ON JUNE 1. IN BRIEF, THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE EMBASSY WILL BE ABSORBING SOME REAL BLOWS JUST WHEN A NEW AND QUITE DIFFERENT DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY BEEN FORMED, AND THE UNITED STATES IS PRE-

PARING FOR SOME CRUCIAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NETHERLANDS AND THE OTHER EC STATES.

4. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN FAIRNESS TO MY SUCCESSOR, I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEND US A TOP- FLIGHT SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICER, EXPERIENCED AND COMPLETELY QUALIFIED TO REPLACE BLODGETT IF HE GETS THE TOKYO JOB. THE NEW MAN SHOULD ARRIVE IN TIME TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE WEEK'S OVERLAP WITH BLODGETT.

5. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT ON A TIMELY AND SUITABLE REPLACEMENT FOR OUR ECONOMIC- COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SHOULD THE QUESTION ARISE.

6. REGARDS.
MIDDENDORF

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS
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